



The University of Montana RURAL INSTITUTE
52 Corbin Hall
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
Voice/TDD: (406) 243-5467
FAX: (406) 243-2349

Spring, 2008

Dear Educator:

The University of Montana-Missoula and Montana State University-Billings are pleased to announce course offerings focused on teaching students with high incidence disabilities in regular education classrooms. With grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, a sequence of six courses will begin in the summer of 2008. These classes are jointly listed at both universities, and interested participants from across the entire state can register for these classes through the school of their choice. **We strongly encourage teams of general and special education teachers from the same school to take these classes together.** The sequence can be completed in two school years, including one course each summer.

The courses in this sequence will utilize distance learning formats, but will have projects and other activities that directly involve your classroom and school. The content areas covered in these courses are as follows: (a) inclusive schooling practice - a review of the research base; (b) instructional practices that support access to the general education curriculum; (c) collaborative strategies to support students in heterogeneous classrooms; (d) action research and reflective practice; (e) standards-based reform and students with disabilities; and (f) strategies to create caring and safe learning environments. These courses can be incorporated into a graduate program at both universities.

Tuition support, awarded on a reimbursement basis, is available for a limited number of individuals who begin this program in June of 2008.

Please help us get the word out by distributing this to those who might have an interest in the program. Thank you!

Gail McGregor, Ed.D.
(406) 243-2348

mcgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

R. Timm Vogelsberg, Ph.D.
(406) 243-5467

rtvogels@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Linda Christensen
(406) 657-2081

lchristensen@msubillings.edu

SAGE Program Information

The Program: This is a six course sequence of graduate level courses that focus on strategies to teach students with mild disabilities in inclusive settings. These credits can be folded into a graduate program at either MSU-Billings or The University of Montana, or they can be taken as an area of graduate specialization that is not a part of a graduate degree program.

Available Tuition and Participant Supports: Funding from a federal grant provides tuition support for a limited number of teachers each year. Tuition support operates on a reimbursement basis (i.e., program participants are reimbursed for the cost of tuition upon successful completion of a course).

Technology Requirements for Participation: All study will utilize distance education modalities. In order to participate in course activities, participants must have access to the following for the fall and spring semester courses:

Minimum Equipment Requirements (Higher end equipment would be desirable):

TWindows 2000 or higher	TCD-ROM Reader
TBroadband Internet Access (256K DSL, Cable, Wireless, or better)	TEmail address
TMicrosoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher	T1 GB available hard drive space
TSound card	T 256 MB RAM minimum
TSpeakers	T15 inch monitor or larger, capable of displaying 800 x 600 or greater in 16 bit color
TComputer microphone	

Skills Required:

TBasic knowledge of computer operation	TWorking knowledge of the internet
TAbility to send and receive email	TAbility to send documents as e-mail attachments

Application Procedures:

Courses only: To register for one or more of these courses, contact the designated faculty person at the University of your choice to obtain admission and registration materials.

Tuition/Participant Support: An application package has been put together for participants who wish to be considered for tuition and participant support for these classes. This needs to be completed and returned to Dr. Gail McGregor **no later than 5/23/08** in order to be considered for the June, 2008 program cohort.

SAGE Timetable for Summer, 2008:

May 23, 2008	Deadline for tuition support applications
May 26, 2008	Applicants for tuition support will be notified
May 26, 2008	Registration and Course Information Packets sent out
June 23, 2008	On-line instruction begins



Tuition Support Application Form - Summer, 2008

Supporting Access to General Education (SAGE)

Graduate Level High Incidence Disabilities Specialization Program

This program is designed to prepare special and general education teachers to deliver effective educational supports for students with high incidence disabilities in regular classroom settings. The program consists of a sequence of six courses covering instructional practices that are designed for regular education settings. A fixed number of dollars is available to support tuition for these classes. Support is provided on a reimbursement basis (i.e., you must successfully complete a class in order for your tuition to be paid.) The tuition support review process is weighted around the following priorities:

YApplicants who agree to complete the entire sequence of six courses.

YApplicants who are currently responsible for providing and/or supporting students with disabilities in regular classroom settings.

YApplicants who take these courses as part of an instructional team (i.e., general and special education teachers from the same school).

YApplicants who take this course sequence as part of a graduate degree program.

YApplicants who are committed to an inclusive approach to education for students with disabilities.

YApplicants who have necessary technology access.

Applicant Information - Please complete this entire section

Name: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____
Zip Code

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Work Address: _____

City/State: _____
Zip Code

E-Mail(s): _____ Fax: _____

Correspondence about this program will
occur the last week of May. Please contact me: 9 at home.

9 at work.

Educational Background and Goals:

Complete information to describe your bachelor's level preparation, as well as any graduate coursework and/or degrees you have completed.

	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Coursework/Degree
Where		
When		
Major Area of Study		

Are you currently certified to teach in Montana?

9 Yes

9 No

If so, what certification do you have?

Do you have special education endorsement?

9 Yes

9 No

What are your future educational plans? Do you have a goal for obtaining a graduate degree?

Do you currently provide educational services to students with disabilities in the regular education classroom?

Yes _____ No _____

Employment History:

Current employer: _____

Position: _____

My previous experience in the field of education is summarized below.

I worked at..... <i>(ex: Elm Street School)</i>	My role was..... <i>(ex: resource room teacher)</i>	I did this (when)... <i>(ex: 1994-1996)</i>

Please provide additional detail about any positions that you have had that involved providing services for students with disabilities. (Feel free to attach additional sheets).

Technology Requirements and Skills

During the fall and spring semesters, course activities will require access to a computer and the internet. Please check the specifications of the system(s) you will have access to during the school year, and check the boxes to indicate those requirements that you meet.

Minimum Equipment Requirements (Higher end equipment would be desirable):

- ☐ Windows 2000 or higher
- ☐ Broadband Internet Access (DSL, Cable, Wireless, or better)
- ☐ Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher
- ☐ Sound card
- ☐ Speakers
- ☐ Computer microphone
- ☐ CD-ROM Reader
- ☐ Email address
- ☐ 1 GB available hard drive space
- ☐ 256 MB RAM minimum
- ☐ 15 inch monitor or larger, capable of displaying 800 x 600 or greater in 16 bit color

Skills Required:

- ☐ Basic knowledge of computer operation
- ☐ Ability to send and receive email
- ☐ Working knowledge of the internet
- ☐ Ability to send documents as email attachments

Please describe your current access to technology. Check all that apply.

- ☐ I have access to email at school.
- ☐ I have access to email at home.
- ☐ I have internet access at school.
- ☐ I have internet access at home.

In no more than two pages, please respond to the three questions below. You may begin your response on this page, using additional pages as necessary, or you may attach a typed response to the application form.

- ☐ Promising practices in the area of special education promotes the inclusion of students with disabilities in regular education classrooms. Describe your perspective on this philosophy.
- ☐ Describe your experience to date in delivering services to students with disabilities in an inclusive manner.
- ☐ What would you hope to be able to gain from the courses in this program?

SAGE Contact Information

The names and contact information are provided below for program faculty and support personnel at the University of Montana-Missoula and MSU-Billings.

University of Montana

Dr. Gail McGregor
(406) 243-2348
mcgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Dr. R. Timm Vogelsberg
(406) 243-5467
rtvogels@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Marnie Bastian
(406) 243-5813
mbastian@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Contact for Information About....

Course content; Graduate programs
Tuition Support Application

Course content; Graduate programs
Tuition Support Application

Admission procedures;
Course registration; Reimbursement

MSU-Billings

Dr. Linda Christensen
(406) 657-2081
lchristensen@msubillings.edu

Jolene Burdge
(406) 657-2097
jburdge@msubillings.edu

Contact for Information About....

Course content; Graduate programs

Registration; Reimbursements

Please direct any inquiries about technology requirements to.....

John Tesdal
(406) 243-5467
tezz@ruralinstitute.umt.edu